

October 17, 2000

TO: U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION
DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH

FROM: Jeanne M. Sill
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RE: DOCKET #98P-0151/CP1
Petition to prohibit Slaughter of Downed Animals

8625 '00 OCT 17 PM 2:24

This letter comes to urge you to grant our petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

From a purely humane standpoint, it is almost impossible to move these animals humanely. They are regularly dragged with chains or pushed with tractors. These methods cause unspeakable agony and pain from bruising and abrasions to broken bones and torn muscle and ligaments. HOW CAN WE CALL OURSELVES HUMAN WHEN WE ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE.

From a health standpoint, let's be realistic. Animals too sick or injured to even stand on their own SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE HUMAN FOOD CHAIN!!

The only way this practice will be stopped is through legislation. Bacterial contamination has shown some signs of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (Mad Cow Disease) to be present.

Economically speaking, downed animals comprise a VERY SMALL percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their being marketed will cause NO GREAT ECONOMIC HARDSHIP. In fact, 90% OF DOWNED ANIMALS CAN BE PREVENTED WITH BETTER CARE AND HANDLING.

LET'S REMOVE THE MARKET FOR THESE HORRIBLY TORTURED ANIMALS AND LET THEM BE HUMANELY EUTHANIZED. The incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals through better handling would be enormous if you follow through.

PLEASE, PLEASE!! YOU HAVE THE POWER TO TERMINATE THIS DISGRACEFUL AND INHUMANE PROCESS. We will be watching to see how these things are handled.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Sill

98P-0151

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